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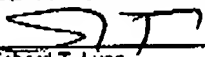
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 Date: 1-16-04
Richard T. Lyon

PATENT APPLICATION
MS No. 149497.04
Attorney Docket No. MCS-023-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Uyttendaele et al.

: Group Art Unit: 2623

Entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR SELECTIVE DECODING AND
DECOMPRESSION

: Examiner: Wu, J.

Serial No.: 09/611,649

Filing Date: July 7, 2000

AFTER FINAL RESPONSE

Mail Stop AF
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In regard to the final Office Action dated November 28, 2003 (Paper No. 9), it is respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered.

The above-identified Office Action was a final rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 of the referenced application. However, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance because the claims are not anticipated by the cited art. As such, the applicants hereby respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the subject application. The reasons for this belief in the novelty of the rejected claims are presented below.

The Section 102 Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30

Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Furlan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,337,708 (hereinafter Furlan). The Office Action asserts that Furlan discloses each and every element of the rejected claims. The applicants hereby respectfully disagree with this contention.

Specifically, it is the applicants' contention that Furlan does not teach the feature where the panoramic frame segments are encoded such that **each frame region includes an indicator which identifies what frame and what location in that frame the accompanying image data relates to.**

Granted, it was contended in the Office Action that Furlan teaches the claimed feature in Figs 4-6 and 12; and at col. 5, line 17 - col. 7, line 56; col. 12, lines 6-20; and col. 15-16. However, the applicants can find nothing in these figures, or the cited sections, or any part of Furlan, which mentions an indicator that identifies what frame and what location within that frame the tile is associated with.

The Examiner contends in the final Office Action that the feature of Furlan whereby each tile position is assigned its own multicast channel, reads on the claimed indicator. In doing so the Examiner apparently is relying on the claim language where an indicator is:

"associated with the data of each frame region".

The Examiner interprets this to mean, in its broadest sense, that the indicator may not be an actual part of the encoded data file for the frame region. Thus, it is apparently concluded that Furlan's teaching of assigning data representing a tile region to a multicast channel is equivalent to associating an indicator with the data, even though no physical indicator is taught to be included in the tile itself. However, the Examiner is mis-interpreting the claim language. The applicants have not claimed that the indicator is merely "associated" with the encoded data file. Rather it is expressly claimed that:

"encoding the frame regions of the panoramic video comprises creating at least one data file comprising data...and an indicator".

Thus, the data file or files include both frame region data and an indicator. The "associated" clause in the claim simply further defines this indicator as being related to (i.e., associated with) the data of each frame region. It does not mean that the indicator is not a physical component of the encoded data file or files.

As explained in the applicants' response to the Office Action dated July 9, 2003 (Paper No. 6), there is nothing in the Furlan teachings that even suggests the applicants claimed indicator. Specifically, Furlan does not teach an indicator that is a physical component of the encoded data file, and which identifies the corresponding video frame of its associated frame region data as well as the location of the frame region within that frame.

A prima facie case of anticipation is established only when the Examiner can show that the cited reference teaches each of the claimed elements of a rejected claim. In this case, the Examiner cannot show that the Furlan reference teaches the claimed feature whereby **each frame region includes an indicator which identifies what frame and what location in that frame the accompanying image data relates to**. Thus, the rejected claims recite a feature that is not taught in cited

art, and as such a prima facie case of anticipation cannot be established. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 be reconsidered based on the novel claim language (as exemplified in Claim 1):


" A process of encoding frames of a panoramic video so as to allow selective decoding of the frames, comprising the process actions of...segmenting each frame of the panoramic video into plural corresponding regions; and separately encoding each region of the panoramic video frames, wherein encoding the frame regions of the panoramic video comprises creating at least one data file comprising the data associated with each frame region of each frame of the panoramic video and an indicator associated with the data of each frame region that identifies its corresponding panoramic video frame and its location within that frame."

Summary

In summary, reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-21 and 23-30 is respectfully requested. Finally, allowance of the rejected claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted


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